

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NEAE-00 RSR-01

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P R 121437 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8788

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1696

DEPT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IZ, IS

SUBJECT: IRAQI JEWS

REF: A) STATE 062658; B) USUN 0901

1. ISRAELI MISOFF MELAMED INFORMED MISSION APRIL 11 THAT AMBASSADOR ROSENNE MET RECENTLY WITH UNHCR SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN TO RECEIVE REPORT ON HCR'S RECENT VISIT BAGHDAD. ACCORDING MELAMED HCR REPORTED AS FOLLOWS.

2. ON MARCH 22 DURING CALL ON IRAQI PRESIDENT AL BAKAR HCR HANDED TO PRESIDENT LIST OF 12 REPORTED ARRESTED AND MISSING IRAQI JEWS AND INFORMED HIM OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S CONCERN OVER WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS THESE INDIVIDUALS. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF MATTER AND ASSURED HCR THAT PROMPT INQUIRY WOULD BE MADE AND THAT HE (HCR) WOULD BE INFORMED ON MATTER DURING HIS STAY BAGHDAD.

3. ON MARCH 23 THE IRAQI MINISTER OF INTERIOR WHO WAS ALSO WEARING FOREIGN MINISTER'S HAT AT THE TIME CONTACTED HCR
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AND INFORMED HIM THAT ONE PERSON WHOSE NAME APPEARED ON LIST HAD BEEN FOUND MURDERED AND THAT A SECOND HAD DIED IN HOSPITAL OF GRAVE ILLNESS. NAMES OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS NOT PROVIDED. AS FOR REMAINING TEN, MINISTER STATED THAT THEY WERE NOT IN IRAQ AND THEIR WHEREABOUTS NOT KNOWN TO GOI.

4. WHEN HCR RAISED WITH MINISTER THE MATTER OF PERMISSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TO LEAVE IRAQ, THE MINISTER REPORTEDLY LAUNCHED INTO A TIRADE OF ANTI- ZIONIST PROPAGANDA ALONG LINES OF THAT CONTAINED REFTEL (B).

5. HCR EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR ROSENNE BELIEF THAT THE 12 PERSONS IN QUESTION ARE LOST AND OPINED THAT CONCERN SHOULD NOW BE DIRECTED TOWARD LIVING MEMBERS OF IRAQI JEWISH COMMUNITY. ACCORDING MELAMED, AMBASSADOR ROSENNE FEELS HCR MADE A COURAGEOUS EFFORT AND ACHIEVED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. MISOFF SCHEDULED TO SEE HCR APRIL 16. WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT DETAILS WHICH MAY EMERGE FROM THAT CONVERSATION. RIMESTAD

NOTE BY OCT: GENEVA 1696 NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA01696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730446/aaaaisml.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 062658, USUN 0901
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980126
Subject: IRAQI JEWS
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IS, IZ
To: NEA
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

